



**For Immediate Release**  
October 31, 2007

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### **ARTS COMMISSION HIRES NEW VISUAL ARTS DIRECTOR**

**Phoenix, Ariz.** – Robert C. Booker, Executive Director of the Arizona Commission on the Arts (ACA), announced today that Adriana Yadira Gallego has accepted the position of Visual Arts Director at the Commission. Booker said, “She comes to the Commission with significant experience in the Southwest and expertise as a professional in the visual arts; she brings an innovative and creative spirit, shaped by her concern for issues of social justice and community involvement.”

Adriana Yadira Gallego grew up alongside the United States–Mexico border in Ambos Nogales, Sonora and Arizona. Affected and influenced by her experiences on the border, Gallego channeled her social concerns into art. In 1997 she graduated magna cum laude with a Robie Gold Medal Award from the College of Fine Arts at the University of Arizona. Her artistic pursuits were inspired by the esteemed tutelage of Alfred J. Quiroz, Bailey Doogan, Bruce McGrew and Jane Dickson. Her work was also informed through her studies at the New York Arts Program, Universidad de Guanajuato and an internship with the Alternative Museum in New York City.

In 1997, she became the youngest first place winner of the Ford Foundation’s Siqueiros-Pollock Binational Painting Competition, juried by José Luis Cuevas and Luis Jimenez, and immediately launched a series of national and international exhibitions. Gallego became an art instructor at the University of Arizona and the Tucson Pima Arts Council where she brought diversified arts programming into rural communities throughout southern Arizona. In addition, she received numerous commissions for public art work such as the *Frances Building Mural* in Half Moon Bay, California, and appeared in various book publications including *Contemporary Chicana and Chicano Art* and *Triumph of Our Communities: Four Decades of Mexican American Art*. In 2006, Gallego’s paintings were featured in a solo exhibition at the Tucson Museum of Art as part of the “Vistas of the Frontera” series.

Gallego has maintained a parallel program of lectures and public speaking engagements enabling her to collaborate with and reach out to diverse communities. In Tucson, she co-founded *Raices Taller 222 Art Gallery & Workshop*, a Latino based contemporary non-profit cooperative art gallery and workshop. For six years, Gallego created and taught contemporary visual arts curricula for Theatre of Hearts/Youth First, a Los Angeles non-profit offering multidisciplinary

educational arts workshops at schools and communities across the county. Through a California Arts Council grant, she initiated successful artistic collaborations among inmates and coordinated a visiting artist component for various California correctional facilities. Before returning to Arizona, Gallego was Educational Assistant at the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena, where she developed engaging artistic forums that connected the greater community with the museum's collection and helped bridge relationships with other cultural institutions and scholars. Most recently, Gallego was the art instructor for Summit High School in Phoenix, where she directed an integrated arts program and led a team of student artists during the completion of twelve onsite murals. The ACA board and staff consider Gallego's outspoken and socially conscious perspective a welcome addition to the Commission and an asset to the future of visual arts in Arizona.

*As the state arts agency, the Commission envisions an Arizona where all people can broaden, deepen and diversify their engagement with the arts, as creators, audiences and supporters, in ways that are satisfying and integral to their lives.*

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